

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS: NAC DISCUSSION DECEMBER 3

DEPT CIRCULATE TO OTHER POSTS AS NECESSARY

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SUMMARY: RUMSFELD (U.S.) COMMENTED ON THIS SUBJECT IN NAC DEC 3 RAISING QUESTIONS ON TWO AREAS WHERE U.S. THINKS CURRENT FRENCH DRAFT SHOULD BE IMPROVED. HE SAID SPECIFIC U.S. LANGUAGE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. SOME ALLIES QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY OF CITING ANY FIGURE (WHETHER THREE-QUARTERS OR 90-10) AS EUROPEAN-U.S. RATIO IN PROVIDING MANPOWER FOR EUROPEAN DEFENSE. DEBATE BY OTHERS INCLUDED PLACEMENT AND CONTENT OF "DETENTE LANGUAGE" AND ON APPEAL TO YOUTH IN PARA 12. NATO/IS NOW DEVELOPING NEW ENGLISH TEXT IN COOPERATION WITH UK, U.S., AND CANADIAN DELS. END SUMMARY

1. SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS NOTED THAT THE FRENCH DELEGATION HAD CIRCULATED A NEW FRENCH TEXT OF THE DRAFT ATLANTIC DECLARATION INCORPORATING CHANGES SUGGESTED BY OTHERS AND WHICH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOUND ACCEPTABLE. LUNS HOPED THE ALLIANCE COULD NOW "PRESS FORWARD" ON THE BASIS OF THE FRENCH TEXT.

2. RUMSFELD (U.S.) SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE COMMENTS ON PARAS 3 THROUGH 6, AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE THESE AVAILABLE BY WEDNESDAY. CITING INCONGRUITY OF FIRST SENTENCE PARA 4, RUMSFELD ALSO
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NOTED WEAKNESSES IN THE NATO IS NOV 30 TRANSLATION OF THE MOST RECENT FRENCH VERSION. SEVERAL DELS COMMENTED ORIGINAL IS DRAFT WAS BETTER IN HANDLING THIS POINT (USNATO 5090). THIS PROMPTED GENERAL DEBATE WHICH LED TO A DECISION THAT THE INTER-

NATIONAL STAFF WOULD UNDERTAKE TO DRAFT A NEW ENGLISH TEXT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UK, U.S. AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS.

3. RUMSFELD NOTED THAT THE SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA 5 CITES THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS AS PROVIDING THREE QUARTERS OF THE ALLIANCE'S CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE. HE SAID THIS COULD CREATE A PROBLEM FOR THE U.S. SINCE WE HAVE REPEATEDLY USED A 90 PERCENT TO 10 PERCENT RATIO IN COMPARING EUROPEAN AND U.S. MANPOWER CONTRIBUTIONS. HE NOTED WE WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE TO USE THE LATTER FIGURE BECAUSE IT HAD ACHIEVED SOME ACCEPTANCE IN THE PRESS, PUBLIC, AND IN THE CONGRESS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC REVISIONS IN THE TEXT TO COVER THIS POINT. FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND U.S. CONCERNS IN THIS AREA AND ADDED IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE CONTRIBUTING ONLY MEN AND NOT AIRCRAFT, ARMOR, ETC. PECK (UK) SAID THAT USE OF THE 10 PERCENT FIGURE WOULD, BY SIMPLE MATHEMATICAL EXTENSION, BASED ON THE 315,000 U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE, GIVE A TOTAL OF OVER 3 MILLION MEN UNDER ARMS IN EUROPE. THIS WOULD GIVE A DISTORTED VIEW OF EUROPEAN FORCE LEVELS AND BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING IN THE MBFR CONTEXT. THE DUTCH PERMREP (SPIERENBURG) AGREED THAT USE OF SPECIFIC FIGURES MIGHT BE DANGEROUS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE LANGUAGE IN PARA 5 MIGHT BE CHANGED TO REFLECT THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PROVIDE THE "OVERWHELMING PART" OF THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES DEFENDING EUROPE.

4. DE ROSE (FRANCE) SUGGESTED THAT CHANGES IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 11 PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS AND OTHERS, MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED BY CHANGING THE FIRST CLAUSE TO READ "THEY RECALL THAT THEIR SOLIDARITY SHOULD BE FOUNDED ON A COMMON ATTACHMENT TO DEMOCRACY."

5. SPIERENBURG (NETHERLANDS), WHILE GRATEFUL FOR FRENCH ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE CHANGE, SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASK HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO SEEK NO OTHER CHANGES IF THE FRENCH COULD ALSO ACCEPT THE DUTCH LANGUAGE STRESSING DETENTE
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IN PARA 2 (USNATO 5582). DANISH AND NORWEGIAN PERMREPS SECONDED DUTCH REQUEST FOR EXPANDED EMPHASIS ON DETENTE IN PARA 2; AND BUSCH (NORWAY) REMINDED THAT OLSO WOULD LIKE TO MOVE PARA 11 TO FOLLOW PARA ONE.

6. SPIERENBURG AGREED WITH NORWEGIAN PERMREP'S OBSERVATION NOV 28 THAT THE CURRENT REFERENCE TO YOUTH IN PARA 12 HAD A FAINTLY PATERNALISTIC CAST. BOTH FRENCH PERMREP AND SYG LUNS ASKED HOW THE NETHERLANDS COULD POSSIBLY OBJECT TO A STATEMENT THAT FREEDOM REQUIRES RESPONSIBILITIES. BUSCH REPLIED THAT THE TEXT AS CURRENTLY WORDED MIGHT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO "SELL" NATO IN NORWAY, PARTICULARLY TO NORWEGIAN YOUTH WHO HERETOFORE HAVE REMAINED UNUSUALLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE

ALLIANCE. HE SAID NORWAY WOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR CHANGES IT
HAD PROPOSED IN PARA 12 (PARA 3, USNATO 5755 EXDIS).
FAILING INCLUSION OF THE NORWEGIAN SUGGESTED CHANGE, OSLO WOULD
PREFER TO SEE ALL OF PARA 12 LEFT OUT OF THE TEXT.

7. SPIERENBURG SAID THAT THE CURRENT PARA 12 COULD ALSO PROMPT
POSSIBLY DAMAGING DISCUSSION IN DUTCH PARLIAMENT AS TO ITS MEANING.
HE NOTED THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL HAD OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF
ANY LANGUAGE IN THE DECLARATION THAT MIGHT STIR THE ALLIANCE'S
ENEMIES IN THE HAGUE. BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE SUGGESTED
THAT THE TEXT MIGHT BE CHANGED SO THAT IT SOUNDED LESS LIKE A
"LESSON."
RUMSFELD

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